

## Maheu To Reveal CIA Role

Associated Press

Negotiations are under way between the Senate intelligence committee and former President Richard M. Nixon over whether he will testify about U.S. covert operations in Chile, according to Chairman Frank Church, D-Idaho.

"We're trying to determine whether he has anything to offer" as well as "his willingness to testify and in what manner," Church said yesterday after Vice Chairman John Tower, R-Texas, revealed that he had been in contact with Nixon.

Meanwhile, Robert A. Maheu, a former aide to billionaire Howard Hughes, has promised to reveal the details of his alleged role as a liaison between the CIA and the Mafia in plots to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. Maheu promised to meet with reporters after he completes his testimony before the Senate committee today.

MAHEU SPENT two hours before the committee yesterday.

Maheu, who invoked the 5th Amendment when first subpoenaed as a witness, is testifying under a grant of limited immunity.

Tower refused to reveal the substance of his 20-minute phone conversation with Nixon on Saturday except to say that the former president sounded strong and in good spirits and expressed concern that investigations of the CIA could damage U.S. intelligence abilities. Tower indicated that if Nixon is called as a witness he would probably be interviewed under oath in California.

Tower added that he has no plans to contact Nixon again although he said he "may be in communication with" Nixon's lawyer, Herbert J. Miller, "in the future."

CHURCH INDICATED that one of the problems in calling Nixon as a witness is a precedent set by the late President Harry S. Truman when he refused to appear before a congressional committee seeking his testimony after he left office.

According to a committee spokesman, the case involved efforts of a House committee to obtain Truman's testimony on charges that a high Treasury Department official was a Communist.

In refusing to appear, Truman invoked executive privilege, saying that even though he had left office, his appearance before a congressional committee might inhibit the actions of other presidents, the spokesman said.

CHURCH CALLED the Truman precedent an "untested assertion of executive privilege." The spokesman cautioned against assuming that Nixon has invoked the Truman precedent.

Both Church and Tower sought to discount reports of partisan strife within the committee sparked by efforts to call Nixon as a witness. ABC News reported Monday that some Republican members view the move as an effort to divert attention from alleged Kennedy administration efforts to kill Castro.

Informed sources have said that Nixon authorized the CIA in September 1970 to make an all-out effort to prevent Chilean Marxist Salvador Allende from coming to power. The agency subsequently became involved in the planning of two military coups, one of which resulted in the death of the chief of staff of the Chilean army, the sources said.

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Nixon, Richard

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